



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

September 5, 2023

**SUBJECT: Update to Rio Grande Valley Border Barrier System Project Request for Input**

To Whom It May Concern:

On August 14, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) began to solicit public input on potential impacts to the environment, culture, quality of life and commerce, including potential socioeconomic impacts for the proposed construction of a border barrier system in Starr County, Texas.

CBP proposes to design and construct up to 20 miles of new border barrier system in Starr County. The barrier will consist of 18-foot high, six-inch diameter bollards embedded into a movable concrete jersey barrier-style base and will include lighting, roads, detection technology and cameras. The proposed up to 20 miles project remains the same, but after CBP's initial solicitation for public input, and as a result of continued project planning, CBP identified other potential areas within Starr County to be considered for construction. The proposed project area map, available online at <https://www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management>, includes recent updates to the proposed potential border barrier locations.

Los materiales en español están disponibles en línea en:  
<https://www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management>

CBP continues to seek public input and comments on the proposed project until September 15, 2023. The most helpful comments are those that include data or information that could help inform CBP's analysis of potential impacts.

Comments can be submitted via email to [RGVComments@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:RGVComments@cbp.dhs.gov). Please include "RGV Border Barrier System Project" in the subject of your email. Comments received in response to this letter, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record. If you are providing a comment about a specific area, please specify that in your comment. Comments may also be submitted via the StoryMap at <https://www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management>.

You may also submit comments, questions, or concerns to the following address:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
U.S. Border Patrol Headquarters  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. 6.5E Mail Stop 1039

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Washington, DC 20229-1100  
ATTN: Paul Enriquez

We appreciate your feedback and assistance with evaluating the potential impacts of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Enriquez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Paul Enriquez  
Director, Infrastructure Portfolio  
U.S. Border Patrol



## Rio Grande Valley Border Barrier System Description of the Proposed Project

The proposed project would include the construction, operation, and maintenance of a new border barrier system in the United States Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector in Starr County, Texas. The project would consist of up to 20 miles of new border barrier system.

The border barrier design would include 18-foot high, six-inch square steel bollards spaced approximately four inches apart and embedded into a moveable concrete jersey barrier-style base. Other components of the proposed border barrier system could include the following, depending on the location:

- **Patrol and Maintenance Roads:** An area of 60- to 100-foot wide could accommodate a Functional Class-2 (FC-2) maintenance road north of the barrier and an FC-2 patrol road on the riverside of the barrier. The area could also include cameras, vegetation clearing, lighting, and a utility corridor with communications fiber and electrical systems.
- **Light Poles and Lighting:** All luminaries would be LED, 4000K CCT (+/- 300 CCT), 70+ CRI. The lighting could provide 3-foot candles (fc) average along the area cleared for the barrier and roads. Light trespass beyond the specified illuminated area shall be no more than 0.1fc at ground level at a distance equal to the width of the area cleared for the roads. Shielding may be installed to control possible spillage of light. All light poles would be mounted on reinforced concrete pedestals at a minimum height of 3 feet above finished grade. The minimum diameter of the pedestal would be 18 inches and would be rigidly connected to the light pole foundation. The light poles would be a minimum of 6 inches in diameter at the base of the pole and coated black to resist corrosion. Light would be powered by grid power connected through an underground conduit.

- **Gates:** The barrier could include gates for access to the southside of the barrier. Gates would be manually operated swing gates supported by hydraulics.
- **Cameras:** Cameras could be affixed to the light poles. Cameras would be spaced out based on viewshed requirements set by U.S. Border Patrol. A Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) feed would be utilized for these cameras.
- **Shelters:** Shelters are needed to house fiber optic and CCTV equipment. Shelter dimensions are up to 12 x 20 feet. Height is approximately 10 feet. One shelter is anticipated to be needed and would be built perpendicular to the barrier on the maintenance road. Placement of the shelter would be within 50 miles of a port of entry.
- **Erosion and drainage control:** Earth retaining systems and erosion control may be needed to control grades and could include items such as concrete or block walls, erosion control mats and riprap. Drainage improvements are anticipated to include concrete low water crossings, reinforced concrete pipe culverts, reinforced concrete box culverts, bridge drainage gates, and associated scour protection that may include concrete slope protection, grouted rip rap, and sheet piles.
- **Access Roads:** The project could include road improvements to FC-2 access road standards.

A preliminary conceptual **site layout** of the proposed border barrier system is depicted in Figure 1 below. Additionally, road improvements would be constructed based on state and local requirements.



- **Water** is anticipated to be needed for construction and dust suppression to maintain air quality near the project. Water is expected to be permitted with local irrigation districts or local landowners with water rights.
- **Laydown yards** would be used to stage project materials and for temporary concrete batch plants and aggregate sorting operations. In addition, laydown yards could include temporary work trailers for the contractors that would also have temporary utility hookups.

Locations of laydown yards would be determined by the construction contractor and are anticipated to be required every five miles in the project area.

Construction of the proposed new border barrier system would be expected to take up to two years. Maintenance to the proposed border barrier system would be expected upon completion of construction.

Maintenance activities could include routine upgrade, clearing of debris from the barrier, repair, and maintenance of the patrol road and barrier system that would not result in a change to their use (e.g., resurfacing a road or replacing a gate component).

Figure 1

